

## Message Text

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EB/OFD/FPD - MR. SIMPSON

EB - MR. KATZ

EUR/RPE - MR. CASEY

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R 062146Z FEB 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

UNCLAS STATE 027633

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EI

SUBJECT: 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM - IRISH QUOTA

REF: STATE 282970 '74

1. REFTEL OUTLINED 1975 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM, INCLUDING PROPOSED IRISH SHARE OF 34.1 MILLION POUNDS, OR 3 PERCENT OF TOTAL ESTIMATED BEEF IMPORTS FOR 1975 FROM COUNTRIES EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN VOLUNTARY EXPORT RESTRAINTS. THIS CONTRASTS WITH PREVIOUS IRISH VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT LEVEL OF 74.7 MILLION POUNDS IN 1972. (QUOTA RESTRICTIONS WERE NOT IN EFFECT DURING 1973-74.) FIGURE OF 34.1 MILLION POUNDS IS BASED ON IRISH SHARE OF US IMPORTS DURING A REPRESENTATIVE PERIOD, JULY 1, 1971-JUNE 30, 1974. ACTING ASST. SEC. J. L. KATZ BRIEFED IRISH EMBASSY AGRICULTURAL COUNSELOR DR. CULLEN, AND OTHERS, ON DECEMBER 27, 1974, EXPLAINING RATIONALE FOR US PROPOSAL AND QUOTA LEVELS.

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2. ON JANUARY 8, CULLEN PRESENTED AIDE MEMOIRE TO DEPART-

MENT STATING HIS GOVERNMENT'S QUOTE PARTICULAR CONCERN UNQUOTE AT THE LOWER LEVEL OF IMPORTS PROPOSED FOR IRELAND, AND REQUESTED FAVORABLE RECONSIDERATION. (COPY OF AIDE MEMOIRE AND MEMCON POUCHED FEB. 4.) ON SAME DAY

IRISH PERMANENT SECRETARY KEATING, GALLAGHER AND DORR, RAISED BEEF IMPORT ISSUE DURING GENERAL DISCUSSION WITH ASST. SEC. HARTMAN AND ACTING ASST. SEC. KATZ IN MEETING FOLLOWING CONCLUSION OF TALKS BETWEEN SECRETARY AND FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD. KATZ REPLIED THAT WE REGRETTED NECESSITY FOR A SYSTEM OF VOLUNTARY QUOTAS, ADDING THAT WE CAN TALK ABOUT THE LEVEL OF THESE QUOTAS, BUT DO NOT HAVE MUCH FLEXIBILITY.

3. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, IRISH HAVE NEITHER RAISED ISSUE AGAIN, NOR ASKED FOR SPECIFIC HIGHER ALLOCATION. ALTHOUGH NO FINAL DECISION ON ALLOCATION LEVELS HAS YET BEEN REACHED, WE ANTICIPATE RENEWED WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION OF THIS PROBLEM IN NEAR FUTURE. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS AS TO POSSIBLE IRISH REACTION SHOULD US BE UNABLE TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE PROPOSED VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT LEVEL ABOVE 34.1 MILLION POUNDS FOR THIS YEAR.

4. AS INDICATED PARA 1, REFTTEL, THE ADJUSTED BASE QUOTA FOR MEAT IMPORTS IN 1975 IS 1074 MILLION POUNDS; IF US IS NOT SUCCESSFUL IN NEGOTIATING VOLUNTARY EXPORT RESTRAINTS, MANDATORY QUOTAS WOULD HAVE TO BE IMPOSED ON ALL COUNTRIES ADJUSTED BASE LEVEL, AND IRISH ALLOCATION WOULD THUS LIKELY BE LOWER THAN PROPOSED 34 MILLION POUNDS. KISSINGER

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